

# Policy Brief – National Nutrition Policy of Sri Lanka 2021-2030



## Food and Nutrition Security: What's Trade got to do with it?

Nutrition, as a maker and marker of development, is a foundation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 2 sets out to 'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture'. Trade is an essential element in achieving food and nutrition security as a necessary part of a comprehensive policy package.

Sri Lanka's macroeconomic crisis has led food price inflation and livelihood disruption which reduce the purchasing power of households resulting in them to adopt food based coping strategies such as resorting to cheaper and unhealthy food alternatives, reducing portion sizes or number of meals.

A multifaceted approach that will ensure proper functioning of food market will be required to achieve the SDG 2. This involves reducing or limiting price fluctuations by providing improved access to market information and preventing market distortions by eliminating export subsidies.



Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to limit extreme food price volatility

### Role of trade in adopting appropriate strategies in food and nutrition security

#### Enhancement of availability and equal access to quality and healthy food through nutrition-sensitive food value chain

- Empower all relevant stakeholders on food supply chain management (quality food production, reduction of post-harvest food loss, food sovereignty)
  - Food storage and distribution systems should be improved to reduce food loss. This includes measures such as upgrading storage facilities, developing efficient transportation networks, and establishing food banks to distribute excess food to vulnerable populations
- Adopt into fiscal, tax and tariff policies
- Facilitate the import of essential food items such as grains, pulses, and vegetable oils to ensure a stable supply of food and prevent shortages, particularly during times of drought or other weather related disruptions

#### Support legal framework for protection of the right to safe food

- Introducing or reviewing and revising necessary legislation related to food safety and standards, giving priority to food items that are highly consumed by the population including street food and fast food
- Strengthening enforcement of existing and newly formulated legislations
- Streamlining implementation of the existing mechanism including nutrient profile model to regulate the promotion of unhealthy food for children
- Controlling unethical marketing through a robust legislative mechanism
- Implementing strong legislation to regulate infant and young child formulae, milk and milk products, commercially prepared food and beverages intended for infants and young children

- Increasing awareness of food safety including regulations among food producers/manufacturers, distributors, handlers and consumers

#### Stabilize the prices of essential food commodities in the country and ensure affordability of quality and healthy food to all citizen via;

- Coordinate decision support information systems (production, trends, climatic factors etc) in order to limit extreme food price volatility
- Control the price of healthy food
- Increase taxation of unhealthy food



<b>TARGET 1.4</b> 	EQUAL RIGHTS TO OWNERSHIP, BASIC SERVICES, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES	<b>TARGET 10.1</b> 	REDUCE INCOME INEQUALITIES
<b>TARGET 2.1</b> 	UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD	<b>TARGET 10.4</b> 	ADOPT FISCAL AND SOCIAL POLICIES THAT PROMOTE EQUALITY
<b>TARGET 2.2</b> 	END ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION	<b>TARGET 10.5</b> 	IMPROVED REGULATION OF GLOBAL FINANCIAL MARKETS AND INSTITUTIONS
<b>TARGET 2.3</b> 	DOUBLE THE PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOMES OF SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS	<b>TARGET 10.A</b> 	REDUCE TRANSACTION COSTS FOR MIGRANT REMITTANCES
<b>TARGET 2.7</b> 	PREVENT AGRICULTURAL TRADE RESTRICTIONS, MARKET DISTORTIONS AND EXPORT SUBSIDIES	<b>TARGET 11.8</b> 	STRONG NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
<b>TARGET 2.8</b> 	ENSURE STABLE FOOD COMMODITY MARKETS AND TIMELY ACCESS TO INFORMATION	<b>TARGET 12.2</b> 	SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
<b>TARGET 9.2</b> 	PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION	<b>TARGET 12.6</b> 	ENCOURAGE COMPANIES TO ADOPT SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING